

February 15, 2015

Dear Jeff,

As per your request after the Colleton County Historical and Preservation Society's Annual meeting, I want to document the board's decisions and thought process regarding the use of CCHAPS funds, specifically our accounts held with Ameriprise (commonly called the Thomas Account, the Fogel Account and the Pon Pon Account). Since the beginning of my presidency in 2011, no money from these accounts could be moved or used without the approval of both the CCHAPS Board and the Financial Committee. All money used during this time had approval of both entities.

In 2011, the CCHAPS board decided that the Little Library needed significant preservation. The last overhaul of the building had been for the Bicentennial. At this time, the board realized that the interest from the Audrey Thomas Account would cover most of the needed work, which involved both repairing damaged woodwork and painting the building. During the process, it was recommended that a new roof be installed rather than patching the old one. The board voted on and agreed to use money from the Fogel Account to accomplish this. The preservation work on the Little Library received the 2013 Excellence Award from the South Carolina Confederation of Local Historical Societies. In all, financing for the Little Library came from the Thomas Account, the Fogel Account, a matching grant from the Daughters of the American Revolution, a grant from the City of Walterboro and a few donations specifically marked for the work.

In early 2014, the CCHAPS Board discussed the importance of caring for the properties that we already own – it appeared to some board members (myself included) that the Bedon-Lucas House and Pon Pon Chapel needed to be better preserved and to be more accessible to the public. The Board wanted to make sure that the public understood that we were caring for the properties entrusted to us. After much discussion, the Board agreed that the work on the exterior of the Bedon-Lucas House should be the next big project of the Society. Work at Pon Pon Chapel would not be neglected but interest from the Thomas Account would go first to the Bedon-Lucas House.

In May of 2014, the CCHAPS Board agreed to solicit bids for the work on the exterior of the Bedon-Lucas House. In June, the board accepted the bid of Reggie Watts. The Thomas Account provided approximately \$35,000 which was just short of the bid – which stipulated that additional costs would be incurred if additional damage was found. It was agreed and voted upon that if additional costs were incurred, the money would be taken from the Fogel Account and paid back. The mortgage on 207 Church Street had just been paid off so the board felt that part of the rent payment for the house would be used to monthly pay back the Fogel Account. Work on the Bedon-Lucas House began in July of 2014.

Additionally, the sleeping porch was added to the work of the Bedon-Lucas House. An additional \$2000 was estimated and the CCHAPS Board agreed that finishing the exterior at this time would be in the best interest of the Society. The cost will come from the Fogel Account and will be replaced monthly with a portion of the rental income from 207 Church St.

The interior of the Bedon-Lucas House has been updated and interpreted by an intern from the University of South Carolina's Bachelors of Liberal Studies program. Although all the work was not

completed, volunteers or another intern should be able to finish up the work. A long term plan for the interior of the Bedon-Lucas House has been debated. Currently, there are no concrete plans for the interior. While the Board feels this is an important part of the history of Colleton County, there are so many different views of how to proceed with the interior, the Board will be collecting ideas and getting input from the membership in the next few years.

The Summer Kitchen attached to the Bedon-Lucas House was not part of the exterior work. Board members are working towards a planning grant for the building. This grant will allow us to put together professional plans for the building and then make an educated choice about how to proceed.

The CCHAPS considers Pon Pon Chapel of Ease an important and endangered historic site in Colleton County. Once the exterior of the Bedon-Lucas House is finished, the Board agreed to look towards major work at Pon Pon Chapel. A Pon Pon Chapel committee was formed in late 2013 or early 2014 but disbanded in the summer of 2014 when chairperson John Wallace had to resigned and informed the board that other committee members, Jack Jackson and Scott Catterton could not make meetings or missed agreed upon meetings. This committee should be revised. Work at Pon Pon Chapel has not been neglected. In the last few years, a new wooden gate was installed (the metal one was stolen), signs and brochure box were added, the walk-in was expanded to accommodate a stroller or wheelchair and regular grounds maintenance has been sustained. Additionally the College of Charleston/Clemson Master's in Historic Preservation class documented the property and produced a report with suggestions for future work. The Savannah River Archeological Research Program brought volunteers and Ground Penetrating Radar to investigate the location of the floor inside the church. They are interested in returning. Both groups did their work and gave us reports at no cost to CCHAPS.

Pon Pon Chapel will be the next project to use the Audrey Thomas endowment interest. The work will be determined by the CCHAPS Board and other CCHAPS members.

If you have any additional questions or require clarification, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Sarah E. Miller

Sarah E. Miller, PhD
Past President
CCHAPS